

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 OMB-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 /114 W

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O R 191355Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3891

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 1252

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJ: SITUATION REPORT: JUNE 19, 1974

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

KUWAIT PASS DOHA, MUSCAT

REF: SANAA 1234

1. SUMMARY: MASWARI QTE EXILED UNQTE TO EGYPT.

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IRYANI AND AHMED NU'MAN DEPART COUNRTY, SEEN OFF BY HAMDI,

ET AL. MEETING OF TRIBAL SHAIKHS SUPPORTS COMMAND COUNCIL AND SETS UP SUPREME COUNCIL OF ITS OWN EXTRA GUARD ON MILITARY HEADQUARTERS WITHDRAWN. GROWING SUPPORT FOR AL-AYNI IN TAIZ.

2. MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCED EVENING JUNE 18 IS POSTING OF FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF COL. HUSAYN AL-MASWARI AS AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT VICE COL. YAHY AL-MUTAWAKKIL, NOW PROMINENT MEMBER OF COMMAND COUNCIL. THIS COMES AS SURPRISE TO US SINCE HAMDY HAD EARLIER SENT WORD TO MASWARI THAT HE WOULD BE GIVEN GOOD POSITION IN NEW REGIME. APPOINTMENT IS BLOW TO FORTUNES OF NU'MAN FAMILY (EX-REPUBLIC COUNCIL MEMBER AHMAD NU'MAN AND SON MUHAMMAD AHMAD, EX-PRESIDENCY POLITICAL ADVISER). IT PROBABLY ALSO REFLECTS SETBACK FOR ABU LUHUM FACTION, WITH WHOM MASWARI HAD RECENTLY BEEN ALLIED. ADDITIONALLY IT CUTS MAJOR TIE BETWEEN SAG AND YEMENI MILITARY SINCE MASWARI KNOWN AND TRUSTED BY SAUDIS.

3. PRESIDENT IRYANI AND AHMAD NU'MAN DEPARTED TAIZ JUNE 18 ON WAY TO EXILE IN SYRIA AND LEBANON RESPECTIVELY. HAMDY, PRIN MAKKI, SINAN ABU LUHUM, AND MUHSIN AL-AYNI TRAVELLED TO TAIZ AND ACCOMPANIED IRYANI AND NU'MAN IN AIRCRAFT ON TAIZ-SANAA LEG OF JOURNEY. IRYANI WAS SEEN OFF IN TAIZ AT DIGNIFIED BUT SOMEWHAT BIZARRE FORMAL CEREMONY IN WHICH HAMDY AND IRYANI JOINTLY REVIEWED HONOR GUARD. CEREMONY DESIGNED TO EMPHASIZE CONTINUITY OF HAMDY REGIME BUT ALSO GENUINE RESPECT HAMDY AND YEMENIS FEEL FOR ELDER STATESMAN IRYANI. ALSO INDICATIVE OF RULE IN YEMENI POLITICS THAT WINNERS SHOW TOLLERANCE FOR LOSERS AND DO NOT TAKE VENGEANCE ON THEM.

4. MAJOR GATHERING UNDER SHAIKH ABDULLAH AL-AHMAR OF TRIBAL SHAIKHS FROM ENTIRE COUNTRY HELD AT MA'MAR (20 KM SOUTH OF SANAA) JUNE 18, AND DECLARED FULL SUPPORT FOR COMMAND COUNCIL. GATHERING ISSUED FORMAL RESOLUTIONS AGREEING TO (1) FORMATION OF QTE SUPREME COUNCIL OF YEMENI TRIBAL CONFERENCE UNQTE (CONFERENCE ITSELF IS ORGANIZATION FORMED IN WEEK IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING COUP),
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(2) SENDING OF MESSAGE CONGRATULATING COMMAND COUNCIL ON ITS JUNE 13 ACTION, (3) SUPPORT FOR ALL CC DECREES ISSUED TO DATE, ESPECIALLY DECISIONS TO ONLY FREEZE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY AND NOT DISSOLVE IT AND TO ONLY SUSPEND CONSTITUTION AND NOT ABROGATE IT, AND (4) DECLARE YEMENI TRIBES A QTE PROTECTIVE SHIELD UNQTE TO PROTECT CC AGAINST EXTERNAL AGGRESSION. CONFERENCE, WHILE IT REFLECTS AL-AHMAR'S DECISION TO SUPPORT CC, AT LEAST

FOR NOW, ALSO REFLECTS DETERMINATION OF TRIBAL SHAIKHS TO ASSURE THEIR INSTITUTIONALIZED PARTICIPATION IN RULING YEMEN.

5. CC MEMBER COL. ALI DHABA'I MET JUNE 18 WITH MINFIN JUNAYD AND REVENUE AND CIVIL SERVICE OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE HOW TO FUND MAJOR SALARY INCREASES FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES J D LESSER RAISES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS. HAMDI SAME AFTERNOON RECEIVED LIBYAN CONGRATULATORY DELEGATION HEADED BY RCC MEMBER COL. ALI FAYTURI, AND ABU TARIQ, REPRESENTATIVE OF YASIR ARAFAT.

6. ADDITIONAL SECURITY NOTED AT MILITARY HEADQUARTERS JUNE 18 HAS NOW BEEN WITHDRAWN. SITUATION IN SANAA QUIET AND NORMAL. POSTER-TYPE PICTURES OF HAMDI ARE BEING ISSUED TO PUBLIC AND ARE APPEARING RAPIDLY AROUND TOWN.

7. AHMAD DAHMASH, FORMER MININFO IN PRE-MARCH HAJRI GOVERNMENT HAS SURFACED AS OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR COMMAND COUNCIL. DAHMASH WAS NOTORIOUSLY CORRUPT AND UNINTERESTED IN RESPONSIBILITIES AS MINISTER. ALTHOUGH HE REPORTEDLY HAS SOME BA'ATHI SYMPATHIES, WE BELIEVE HE IS CHIEFLY AN OPPORTUNIST.

8. EMBOFF IN TAIZ REPORTS GROWING SUPPORT THERE FOR APPOINTMENT OF MUHSIN AL-AYNI AS PRIME MINISTER. THIS NO SURPRISE AS AYNi HAS ALWAYS ENJOYED POPULARITY THERE. SOUTHERN (SHAFAT) HALF OF YAR ALSO SEEMS UNEASY OVER ZAYDI (EIGHT OUT OF TEN) DOMINATION OF COMMAND COUNCIL WHICH SHARP REVERSAL OF TWO-THIRDS MINISTERIAL MAJORITY SHAFAT'S HAD ENJOYED IN CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. CRAWFORD

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